

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium having a unique recording medium ID;
~~a verification server capable of being connected with said~~
~~the user computers via a network, the verification server~~
~~including a user database provided with the unique recording~~
~~medium IDs; and~~

~~at least one content server connected to the verification~~
~~server via a network and having a content database associated~~
~~therewithwith said server for accumulating user information~~
~~corresponding to said recording medium ID;~~

wherein ~~said~~the verification server comprises:

~~means for obtainingrequiring said the recording medium~~
~~ID from one of said plurality of the user computers when that~~
~~onethe user computers issues a communication request data~~
~~associated with a desired content server and for verifying the~~
~~request based on information recorded in the user database; and~~

~~means for identifying said recording medium based on~~
~~said recording medium ID and said user information in said~~
~~database;~~

~~means for establishing communications between the user~~
~~computer and the desired content server when the request is~~
~~verified;~~

~~whereby communication is able to be established~~
~~between said server and a computer specified by said one of said~~
~~plurality of computers in response to said identified recording~~
~~medium.~~

~~means for requesting user status information~~
~~representing a current status of at least one of programs and~~
~~data stored in at least one of the recording medium and the user~~
~~computer from the user computer and for transmitting the user~~
~~status information to the desired content server; and~~

means for receiving information corresponding to the user status information from the content database of the desired content server and for transmitting content information from the desired content server to the user computer to thereby provide the content requested by the user.

2. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein the user status information comprises at least one of a serial number and a version number of a program~~said computer that issues a communication request is the same as said computer that establishes communication with the server.~~

3. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein the user status information comprises data indicative of the completion status of a game played on the user computer~~said computer that issues a communication request is different from said computer that establishes communication with the server.~~

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 14, wherein the content information transmitted to the user computer comprisessaid communication is able to be established for uploading or downloading of one of data for upgrading at least one of the programs and data.

6. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 41, wherein the content information transmitted to the user computer comprises further comprising means for preparing data for performing at least one of upgrading and debugging for said identified at least one of the programs and data, as said

~~data for updating.~~

7. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:

~~said computer system further comprises means for preparing data for preparing requested data corresponding to status and said identified recording medium;~~

~~said recording medium contains at least one of programs and data; and~~

~~said the user computers each further comprise means for supplying to said the verification server said the user status information of said at least one of programs and data stored in said recording medium.~~

8. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:

~~each of said the user computers each have unique device IDs;~~

~~said the user information in said database contains information relating to said the device IDs; and~~

~~said the verification server further comprises:~~

~~means for obtaining said the device IDs from said the user computers when said the user computers request said the data from the desired content server data; and~~

~~means for identifying said the user computers based on said the device IDs and said the user information in said the user database.~~

9. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:

~~each user of each of said the user computers has a unique user ID;~~

~~said the user information in said database contains~~

information relating to ~~said the~~ user IDs; and

~~said the~~ verification server further comprises:

means for obtaining ~~said the~~ user IDs from ~~said the~~ user computers when ~~said the~~ user computers request ~~said the~~ data from the desired content server; and

means for identifying ~~said the~~ user based on ~~said the~~ user ID and ~~said the~~ user information in ~~said the~~ user database.

10. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ verification server is connected, via a network, further to at least one content server having digital content.

11. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 10, wherein ~~said the~~ verification server further comprises:

means for performing verification of ~~said the~~ recording medium based on ~~said the~~ recording medium ID; and

means for ~~judging~~ determining whether or not to permit providing of ~~said the~~ digital content from ~~said the~~ content server to ~~said the~~ user computer, based on the results of ~~said the~~ verification.

12. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium storing at least one of programs and data; and

a verification server ~~capable of being~~ connected with ~~said the~~ user computers via a network; and

at least one content server connected to the verification server via a network and having a content database associated therewith;

wherein ~~said the~~ user computers each comprise means for

supplying to ~~said~~ the verification server user status information representing a current status of said ~~the~~ at least one of programs and data stored in ~~said~~ at least one of the recording medium and the user computer; and

~~said~~ the verification server comprises:

means for obtaining ~~said~~ the user status information from ~~said~~ the user computers when ~~said~~ the user computers request data associated with a desired content server connected to the verification server;

means for preparing ~~said~~ the requested data according to ~~said~~ the user status information; and

means for transmitting ~~said~~ the requested data to ~~said~~ the user computers.

14. (currently amended) A computer system according to Claim 12, further comprising at least one content server having digital content ~~and capable of being connected to said server via a network~~,

wherein ~~said~~ the means for preparing the requested data comprises means for sending ~~said~~ the user status information to ~~said~~ the contents server, and ~~said~~

wherein the content server comprises means for selecting ~~said~~ the digital content according to ~~said~~ the user status information and transmitting ~~said~~ the selected digital content to ~~said~~ the verification server.

15. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium storing at least one of programs and data; and

a verification server ~~capable of being connected with said the user computers~~ via a network, wherein:

each of ~~said~~ the user computers has a unique device ID; and

~~said the~~ verification server comprises:

a user database ~~for accumulating~~ provided with user status information corresponding to ~~said the~~ device IDs;

means for ~~obtaining~~ requiring ~~said the~~ device IDs from ~~said the~~ user computers when ~~said the~~ user computers request data associated with a desired content server connected to the verification server;

means for identifying ~~said the~~ user computer based on ~~said the~~ device ID and ~~said the~~ user status information in ~~said the~~ user database;

means for requesting user status information representing a current status of at least one of the programs and data stored in at least one of the recording medium and user computer from the user computer and for transmitting the user status information to the desired content server;

means for preparing ~~said the~~ requested data according to ~~said the~~ identified user computer and the user status information; and

means for transmitting ~~said the~~ requested data to ~~said the~~ user computers.

16. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium storing at least one of programs and data; and

a verification server ~~capable of being~~ connected with ~~said the~~ user computers via a network, wherein:

each user of each of ~~said the~~ user computers has a unique user ID; and

~~said the~~ verification server further comprises:

a user database ~~for accumulating~~ provided with user status information corresponding to ~~said the~~ user IDs;

means for ~~obtaining~~ requiring the ~~said~~ user IDs from

~~said the user~~ computers when ~~said the user~~ computers request ~~said data~~ associated with a desired content server connected to the verification server;

means for identifying ~~said the user~~ based on ~~said the user ID~~ and ~~said the user status~~ information in ~~said the user~~ database;

means for requesting user status information representing a current status of at least one of the programs and data stored in at least one of the recording medium and the user computer from the user computer and for transmitting the user status information to the desired content server;

means for preparing ~~said the requested data~~ according to ~~said the identified user~~ and the user status information; and

means for transmitting ~~said the requested data~~ to ~~said the user~~ computers.

17. (currently amended) A verification server capable of being ~~mutually~~ connected, via a network, with a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with one or more recording media each having a unique recording medium ID, ~~said the verification server~~ comprising:

a user database provided with~~for accumulating~~ user status information corresponding to ~~said the recording medium IDs~~;

means for ~~obtaining~~requiring the ~~said recording medium IDs~~ from ~~said the user computers~~ when ~~said the user computers~~ request data associated with a desired content server connected to the verification server;

means for identifying a given recording medium based on ~~said the recording medium ID~~ and ~~said the user status~~ information in ~~said the user~~ database;

means for requesting user status information representing a current status of at least one of programs and data stored in at least one of the recording media and the user

computer from the user computer and for transmitting the user status information to the desired content server;

means for preparing ~~said the~~ requested data according to ~~said the~~ identified recording medium and the user status information; and

means for transmitting ~~said the~~ requested data to ~~said the~~ user computers.

18. (currently amended) A verification server capable of being connected, via a network, with a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with one or more recording media each storing at least one of programs and data, ~~said the~~ verification server comprising:

means for obtaining user status information representing a current status of the ~~relating to said~~ at least one of programs and data stored in at least one of a given recording medium and user computer from ~~said the~~ user computers when ~~said the~~ user computers request data associated with a content server connected to the verification server;

means for preparing ~~said the~~ requested data according to ~~said the~~ user status information; and

means for transmitting ~~said the~~ requested data to ~~said the~~ user computers.

19. (currently amended) A method of processing ~~within~~ operating a computer system comprising a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium having a unique recording medium ID, ~~and a~~ verification server ~~capable of being connected with said the~~ user computers via a network, and including a user database provided with the unique recording medium IDs, and at least one content server connected to the verification server via a network and having a content database associated therewith, wherein said the method of

~~processing performed by said server comprises:~~

~~obtainingrequiring said the recording medium ID from said the user computers when said the user computers request data associated with a desired content server connected to the verification server;~~

~~verifying the request based on information recorded in the user database;~~

~~establishing communications between the user computer and the desired content server when the request is verified;~~

~~requesting user status information representing a current status of at least one of programs and data stored in at least one of the recording medium and the user computer from the user computer;~~

~~transmitting the user status information to the desired content server;~~

~~receiving information corresponding to the user status information from the content database of the desired content sever; and~~

~~transmitting content information from the desired content server to the user computer to thereby provide the content requested by the user.~~

~~inputting user information corresponding to said recording medium ID from a database;~~

~~identifying said recording medium based on said recording medium ID and said user information;~~

~~preparing said requested data according to said identified recording medium; and~~

~~transmitting said requested data to said computer.~~

20. (currently amended) A method of processing ~~withinoperating~~ a computer system comprising a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium storing at least one of programs and data, and ~~a verification~~

~~server capable of being connected with said the user computers~~
~~via a network, and at least one content server connected to the~~
~~verification server via a network and having a content database~~
~~associated therewith, wherein said the method of processing~~
~~preferred by said server comprises:~~

obtaining user status information representing a current
status of the relating to said at least one of programs and data
stored in said at least one of the recording medium and the user
computer from said the user computers when said the user
computers request data associated with a desired content server
connected to the verification server;

preparing said the requested data according to said the
user status information; and

transmitting said the requested data to said the user
computer.

21. (currently amended) A user computer capable of being
loaded with a recording medium storing at least one of programs
and data, and capable of being connected with a verification
server via a network, the verification server being connected at
least one content server via a network and having a content
database associated therewith, said and the recording medium
having a unique ID, said the user computer comprising:

means for supplying at least one of an ID unique to of the
user said computer, an ID unique to of said the recording medium
and an ID unique to said of the user, to said the verification
server as verification information, when a request for data
associated with a desired content to said server is made
following operations made by a user;

means for supplying user status information representing a
current status of the at least one of programs and data stored

in at least one of the recording medium and the user computer to the verification server; and

means for receiving a result of verification from ~~said the~~ verification server; and

means for receiving content information corresponding to the user status information from the desired content server.

22. (currently amended) A ~~recording-storage~~ medium for use ~~inwith~~ a computer system, which computer system comprises a plurality of user computers connectable via a network to a server, ~~said a~~ recording medium storing at least one of programs and data and being capable of being loaded into a ~~the~~ user computer, a verification server connected with the user computer via a network, and at least one content server connected to the verification server via a network and having a content database associated therewith, wherein ~~said the~~ storage medium contains a program is capable of causing ~~said the~~ user computer to carry out a method, comprising:

send the recording medium ID to the verification server when the user computer requests data associated with a desired content server;

establish communications between the user computer and the desired content server via the verification server when the request is verified by the verification server;

send user status information representing a current status of the at least one of programs and data stored in at least one of the recording media and the user computer to the desired content server; and

receive content information corresponding to the user status information from the desired content server in response to the request for data.

~~managing status relating to said at least one of programs~~

~~and data stored in said recording medium according to a recording medium ID;~~

~~transmitting a request for data to said server; and~~

~~receiving from said server data prepared as requested in response to said status by said server, whereby said recording medium is updated in response thereto.~~

23. (currently amended) A storage medium containing a program for use ~~within~~ with a computer system, the computer system comprising a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium having a unique recording medium ID, ~~and a verification server capable of being connected with said the user computers via a network and including a user database provided with the unique recording medium IDs, and at least one content server connected to the verification server via a network and having a content database associated therewith,~~ wherein ~~said the~~ program is capable of causing ~~said the verification server to carry out a method, comprising:~~

require the recording medium ID from the user computers when the user computers request data associated with a desired content server;

verify the request based on information recorded in the user database;

establish communications between the user computer and the desired content server when the request is verified;

request user status information representing a current status of at least one of programs and data stored in at least one of the recording media and the user computer from the user computer;

transmit the user status information to the content server;

receive information corresponding to the user status information from the desired content database; and

transmit content information from the desired content server to the user computer to thereby provide the content requested by the user.

~~obtaining said recording medium ID from said computers when said computers request data;~~

~~inputting user information corresponding to said recording medium ID from a database;~~

~~identifying said recording medium based on said recording medium ID and said user information;~~

~~preparing said requested data according to said identified recording medium; and~~

~~a step for transmitting said requested data to said computer.~~

24. (currently amended) A storage medium containing a program for use within with a computer system, the computer system comprising a plurality of user computers each capable of being loaded with a recording medium storing at least one of programs and data, and ~~a verification server capable of being connected with said~~ the user computers via a network and including a user database provided with unique information associated with at least one of an ID unique of the user computer, an ID unique of the recording medium and an ID unique of the user, and at least one content server connected to the verification server via a network and having a content database associated therewith, wherein said the program is capable of causing said ~~the verification server to carry out a method, comprising:~~

require verification information from the user computers when the user computers request data associated with a desired content server;

verify the request based on information recorded in the user database;

establish communications between the user computer and the desired content server when the request is verified;

request user status information representing a current status of the at least one of programs and data stored in at least one of the recording media and the user computer from the user computer;

transmit the user status information to the desired content server;

receive information corresponding to the user status information from the content database of the desired content server; and

transmit content information from the desired content server to the user computer to thereby provide the content requested by the user.

~~obtaining status relating to said at least one of programs and data based on a unique ID given to said recording medium from said computers when said computers request data;~~

~~preparing said requested data according to said status; and transmitting said requested data to said computer.~~